

Fuel energy from plants

482. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been invented in India to produce fuel energy from a particular plant and the plant is being cultivated in a particular State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) *Jatropha curcas* (Ratanjot) has been identified as one of the promising oil seed producing plants which can be used for the production of bio-diesel. The process of producing bio-diesel from oil is well established. Bio-diesel can be blended with petroleum diesel fuel for automotive and stationary applications. The Government have taken up a National Mission on Bio-diesel with focus on cultivation of *Jatropha curcas* plant in different States of the country. Under this National Mission, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, financial assistance has been provided to nine States for raising seedlings, mainly from *jatropha*, which would be utilized for the production of bio-diesel.

Scheme for solar water heaters

483. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have planned to popularize solar water heaters by providing subsidy through his Ministry;

(b) the number of banks and financial institutions which are being involved for the implementation of this scheme; and

(c) the total subsidy proposed for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A scheme for promotion of solar water heaters is being implemented through banks and financial institutions which provides for upfront interest subsidy so that loans are available at an effective interest rate of 2% to domestic users,

3% to institutions and 5% to commercial establishments. Capital subsidy equivalent to upfront interest subsidy is also available to registered institutions and commercial establishments that do not avail loans.

(b) 26 banks and financial institutions are participating in the implementation of the scheme.

(c) An amount of Rs. 22.50 crore is available for implementation of the subsidy scheme during the current year.

Power generation from wind in Rajasthan

†484. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made for power generation from wind in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, how much power generation is likely to be made;

(c) the cost of electricity per unit in the western districts of the State based on conventional energy i.e. gas based, coal based as compared to that electricity per unit of wind energy; and

(d) whether Government contemplate to cooperate with State Government in exploitation of wind energy so as to obviate problems of decreasing reserves of gas and coal, transport cost and crisis and power theft and wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Wind resource assessments have been carried out at 36 locations in Rajasthan. The present exploitable wind power potential of 1050 MW has been estimated in the State.

(c) The cost of electricity from conventional sources viz., coal and gas, in the State of Rajasthan is stated to be in the range of Rs. 1.80 to Rs. 2.40 per unit of electricity. Cost of Electricity from wind varies from site to site and it is in the range of Rs. 2.75 to Rs. 3.50 per unit. However, the Unit cost of wind energy on the basis of levelised cost is quite comparable

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.